

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group
FINAL: Minutes for February Meeting
2/9/05

Minutes by Steve Gunther, edited by Dorothy Shoemaker.

Attendance:

Present at meeting:

Environment:

Travis Williams	travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org	Willamette Riverkeeper
Dorothy Shoemaker	Dorothy.shoemaker@oregon.sierraclub.org	Board Secretary
Joe Keating	(b) (6)	Oregon Wildlife Federation Education and Outreach coordinator

At-Large:

Jim Robison	(b) (6)	Citizen
Jackie Calder	(b) (6)	Citizen
Bill McCauley	no email, (b) (6)	Citizen

Health:

Jane Harris	jane@oregon-health.org	Oregon Center for Environmental Health (OCEH), Evaluation committee coordinator
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Business:

Steve Gunther	(b) (6)	Progressive Products and Services
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Excused absences:

Neighborhood Associations:

Peter Laughingwolf	(b) (6)	Cathedral Park
Robin Plance	(b) (6)	(b) (6) committee coordinator
Larry Talbert	(b) (6)	Hi Noon

Recreation:

Raquel Coyote	(b) (6)	Citizen
Bill Egan	no email, (b) (6)	Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
Bill Barrett	(b) (6)	Waterfront Org. of Oregon (WOO)

Environment:

Rhett Lawrence	rhett@ospirg.org	OSPIRG
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Others present:

Barbara Smith	Barbara@harrisandsmith.com	Lower Willamette Group
Chip Humphrey	humphrey.chip@epa.gov	EPA
Kim Cox	kimc@bes.ci.portland.or.us	City of Portland
Sue Safford	saffos@portptld.com	Port of Portland
Regina Skarzinskas	regina@TASLLC.com	Willamette-Riverkeeper
Judy Smith	smith.judy@epa.gov	EPA
(b) (6)		

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(b) (6)
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Matt McClincy

(b) (6)
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mcclincy.matt@deq.state.or

Citizen
Citizen
DEQ

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Meeting began at 6:08 PM.
Everyone introduced themselves.

Next meeting set for March 9, 2005, 6 to 8 PM, same location.

MOTION: Accept minutes from last meeting, with corrections: Jim Robison and Robin Plance had corrections, about GASCO reference and Bob Wyatt (not Bill Wyatt) was discussed.
Motion accepted.

Agenda correction: add discussion of Willamette-Riverkeeper Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). Also, Bill McCauley had items to discuss at end of meeting.

Jane Harris reported on the GASCO letter regarding more stringent treatment of waste from the site.

The Evaluation committee will meet next month.

Bill asked about judging methods for the GASCO cleanup site.

Travis says the EPA will make the final decision about use of silt curtains or other wall structures.

The question arose: Should the CAG send a letter to the EPA regarding this decision?
Travis offered to draft the letter.

MOTION: Travis should send a letter to EPA. Joe moved, all agreed.

Action: Travis is to write a letter to the EPA.

Administration Committee:

Travis said that the new WRK offices would be a good location for a meeting.

Dorothy volunteered to resume her duties as Board Secretary. Steve offered to keep taking minutes.

MOTION: Reinstated Dorothy as secretary. Moved, seconded, accepted.

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Robin requested by email that we set up a Vice-Chair position. Nobody had the bylaws along, so we tabled the matter until next month's meeting. Meanwhile, the administration committee will discuss it by email.

Action: Dorothy to send an email initiating the conversation.

Education and Outreach:

Joe Keating reported that Robin had not sent out the PRP letter, so he would make sure it was sent.

MOTION: Joe issue PRP letter at earliest possible convenience. Steve moved. All agreed.

Action: Joe to send PRP letter to all the non-LWG PRPs, using WRK's TAG money for postage.

Travis discussed WRK's TAG grant. Some of the money can be spent on the CAG's administrative expenses, like the mailing to PRPs.

Bill McCauley had heard a rumor about \$75,000. That is the amount that WRK has received from the EPA for the TAG, over the last few years. WRK reviews CAG expenses on a case-by-case basis.

PRP letter discussion – responses should be by mail or phone; everyone who responds should get a thank-you – one set of responses wouldn't work

Jane Harris has a friend named Brenda Hoppe, who is interested in participating in the CAG. She has a Master's in toxicology. Travis suggested she attend a meeting, and introduce herself.

Bill McCauley asked about the Schnitzer dredging case. They used an open clamshell dredge. The permit required a closed clamshell.

Having refreshments at CAG meetings was discussed, including the possibility of having dinner as a group before the meetings, to allow discussion within the CAG membership. The matter was tabled to a future meeting.

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Presentation: Ranking the Superfunds

Chip Humphrey from the EPA gave a presentation on the Portland Harbor's ranking among the other Superfund sites. Judy will email the visual presentation to the CAG membership.

PCBs are the #1 driver of Superfunds in the USA (44%)
Others major problems are: Metals, PAHs and pesticides, mercury, dioxin

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15% of US river miles and all of the Great Lakes are included in Superfund sites.

There are eleven (11) sites in Oregon. McCormick & Baxter is the biggest so far. Others are NW Pipe & Casing (#2), Harbor Oil, Reynolds Metals, Nu-Way O., Taylor Lumber (? Are we talking about most expensive? Where does the Portland Harbor fit?)

Of Superfund sites which have reached ROD:

- Less than 5% received capping or attenuation.
- 80% nationally had less than 50K cubic yards of waste removed
- at 74% of sites, sediment costs were less than \$10 million

Mega Sites are Superfund sites with a remedy cost over \$50 million. Prior to 2000, 20% were sediment sites.

In response to a question from Joe, Chip said that there are 8 to 10 sites like Portland – major dredging sites on urban rivers. The Duwamish River Superfund Site is similar to the Portland Harbor site.

Chip said that of the mega sites completed, 80% of the cost was paid by Responsible Parties (PRPs).

Jane mentioned an article she had seen about the EPA reconsidering dredging as a solution. Chip responded that there was some truth to the article, that although dredging has been the “tried and true” method, the EPA is reevaluating the practice.

Steve wondered what response Chip and the EPA have to property owners who pay for evaluation of their site, then learn that natural attenuation and monitoring have been selected.

Chip said that monitoring has shown that capping is effective.

Chip says that the Portland Harbor cleanup is expected to be funded by the RP's.

Jane asked about alternative technologies, specifically sediment disposal. Chip said that the feasibility study will weigh and balance the potential remedies. Some remedies work well for some contaminants and not for others.

Fenix Grange has been replaced by Mikell o'Mealy as the DEQ Portland Harbor Outreach Coordinator.

Jane Harris reviewed permits for the dredging by Schnitzer. Jane is working with NWEA to assess what occurred and what was reported.

ARKEMA Update:

Matt McClincy gave an update on the ARKEMA site (formerly Atofina). The investigation is done.

Perchlorate is a pollutant of risk on the ARKEMA site. It is a known carcinogen and the concentrations on the site are among the ten highest in the country.

Early cleanup actions occurring onsite and innovative technology is being considered for use on the site. Chemical oxidation, which is one of the technologies under consideration, is considered an innovative remedy on sites containing chlorinated solvents.

Injection of calcium polysulfide is being considered as means to treat hexavalent chromium contamination in the groundwater onsite. DEQ will be issuing a public notice shortly, inviting comment (30 day comment period) on the proposed treatment of hexavalent chromium with calcium polysulfide. (The notice will be issued March 1.) A public meeting will be held to receive comment if requested. DEQ offered to arrange a presentation on the proposal action and was invited to meet with the CAG Evaluation Committee on March 18th.

A public meeting will take place prior to implementation of this remedy, only if requested. If the CAG wants to request a meeting beyond the Evaluation Committee, we should schedule it within the 30 day comment period. Matt will talk with Jane Harris.

ERM is the consultant leading the recommendation of this upland source control action.

T4 will be discussed at the April CAG meeting, according to Judy Smith.

Jane Harris asked if the Port had submitted preferred alternatives for their remedial action.

We discussed possible future agenda items.

Travis asked about having a presentation about dredging and capping. Joe suggested that we put the dredging presentation on the March agenda.

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